

Tunku Answers Charges Of Disunity and Racism

By Warren Unna

Washington Post Staff Writer

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's Prime Minister, Tunku Abdul Rahman, defended his people and his country in a recent interview here from charges of disunity and racism.

The 62-year-old Tunku took particular issue with views expressed by Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew in an interview that was published in the Feb. 5 edition of The Washington Post. Lee had charged that Malay extremists, in trying to impose their own language and governmental methods on predominantly non-Malay Malaysia, were making it easier for President Sukarno of Indonesia to destroy the federation.

The 17-month-old Federation of Malaysia is composed of the original and predominantly Malay sultanates on the Malay Peninsula and three new additions: Singapore, an island at its foot; and Sarawak and Sabah, two former British colonies on the northern third of the island of Borneo.

The minority races of Malaysia, the Chinese, Indians, Dyaks and others, also divide themselves from the Malays by being non-Moslems with different diets and different dress.

Calls Accusation Unfair

The Tunku said it was unfair to accuse his Malay people of trying to lord it over the other races. He also said it was wrong to think that the jostling of politicians to succeed him is creating racial zealots.

"If I were to die this very moment, the man who would step in my shoes is Tun Razak (the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense and chief of the Rural Rehabilitation Program). And if he were to die, there are others selected. There is no quarrel. We have worked that out from the very beginning," the soft-spoken Tunku declared with unusual emphasis.

He denied that any of the member states want to quit the new Malaysian federation,

or that members of his own Malay political organization want to turn back the clock.

The Tunku minimized the two recent demonstrations here against the U.S. Information Service library.

He acknowledged as "quite true" the charge that his party, the United National Malay Organization, had "taken the lead in making a demonstration" last January after the United States had agreed only to lend and not give Malaysia the \$15 million necessary to purchase Cessna twin-engine jet strike-trainer planes.

Says He Stopped It

"Then I made a statement that this was childish and they stopped," the Tunku declared.

As for the more recent demonstration against the USIS library here, on Feb. 13, it was explained that this was a Socialist rally aimed against the Tunku's own government, not against the United States, and the defamation of the USIS building was just incidental.

Finance Minister Tan Siew Sin, in a separate interview here today, said he thought the United States reluctance to help Malaysia in its fight against Indonesia was extremely short-sighted.

"I think we are the best bet for you in Southeast Asia. But for God's sake don't wait till we are slipping down, when it will be a case of too little and too late," Siew Sin declared.

Back U.S. on Bombing

The Finance Minister, who also is president of the Ma-



TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN
"... there is no quarrel"

layan Chinese Association, a part of the Tunku's "Alliance" government, said he had to argue for 45 minutes before his party conference two days ago to get the members to change a resolution against the U.S. aid turnaround from "deplore" to "greatly regret."

A U.S. grant to Malaysia

would be "petty cash" for such a great power, Siew Sin declared. "From the beginning, two years ago, I wanted a gift. A loan is not much use after you have got to repay it."

Both the Tunku and Deputy Prime Minister Tun Razak expressed themselves in full support of the recent U.S. reprisal raids against Communist North Viet-Nam.

"The Communists can only understand one thing and that is force," the Tunku said in recalling his own country's successful 12-year struggle against Communist guerrillas.

But both the Tunku and the Tun expressed great foreboding if there were to be any compromising political settlement by the great powers over South Viet-Nam.

As for his own country's continuing breach of relations with the Philippines, Malaysia's Deputy Prime Minister said that could be quickly settled if the Filipinos would only formally present a detailed claim to territory they say belongs to them on North Borneo (Malaysia's Sabah). Then Malaysia would agree to have the dispute settled by the International Court of Justice in The Hague, he said.